

(Mr. RUSH addressed the House. His remarks will appear here after in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Guam (Mr. UNDERWOOD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. UNDERWOOD addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

COMMENDING WESTERN WISCONSIN COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. KIND) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KIND. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to rise this evening to honor the many flood relief volunteers who have worked tirelessly these past few weeks throughout my home congressional district along the Mississippi River in western Wisconsin. Through their many acts of selfless dedication, they rose as one to meet the challenges of adversity brought on by the flooding waters.

In fact, Madam Speaker, Tawni and I are kind of redefining the term "feel your pain," because on Easter morning, Tawni and I and our two little boys, Johnny and Matt, woke up to discover that the Mississippi River was to the east of us rather than to the west of us. We thought now may be a good time to load the boys in a canoe and paddle to high ground to seek safe shelter elsewhere. In fact, many of the church bulletins on Easter morning read "He has risen and so has the river."

While some of us had to temporarily leave our houses and others lost possessions, I believe all of us gained something very valuable being witness to the extraordinary efforts made by friends, neighbors and strangers alike, all helping each other in a shared time of need.

Madam Speaker, I would like to specifically commend both the American Red Cross, who provided over 10,000 meals to residents, emergency workers, and volunteers, as well as providing much-needed temporary shelter for those displaced from their homes, as well as the Salvation Army, who provided additional assistance by preparing meals for weary workers and residents.

In addition, I wish to recognize the men and women of Wisconsin's fire departments, police departments, the National Guard, and all other emergency personnel who worked unceasingly to pump the water out and man the barriers to stem the force of the flooding.

Madam Speaker, lastly, the faith I have always had in our Nation's youth proved to be well founded when the students from the Challenge Academy at Fort McCoy, Fountain City High School, Winona High School, Boscobel

and Prairie du Chien High School, as well as students at the University of Wisconsin La-Crosse, Winona State University, and a number of other schools spent their time and, for some, their spring breaks to help fill and stack sandbags and man the dikes and levees during this time of need.

Madam Speaker, the multitude of ways residents of western Wisconsin found to help each other was truly inspiring. It is at times like these when one better appreciates what Wisconsin people are all about. There is still work to be done to recover from this year's flooding and to assure that we are well prepared if such events occur in the future, but we know that the community spirit fostered by the acts of generosity and the selflessness by people of Wisconsin's Third Congressional District will be long remembered long after the mighty Mississippi returns to its gentle and peaceful pace.

I wish to also extend thanks to community leaders who reacted quickly and effectively to control the flooding and provide aid to those directly affected by it.

Special thanks need to go out to the mayors of these water communities, as well as county emergency government officials, who made advanced flood preparation and coordinated relief efforts as possible.

I especially want to recognize a few individuals by name: Crawford County Emergency Government Director Roger Martin; Grant County Emergency Director Steve Braum; La Crosse County Emergency Director Al Spalding; La Crosse Public Works Director Pat Caffrey; Trempealeau County Emergency Government Director William Zagorski, who had just started the job 2 weeks prior to the flooding. Talk about getting your feet wet in a new position. Buffalo County Emergency Director Monica Herman, Pierce County Emergency Director Myrna Larrabee, Vernon County Management Director Cindy Ackerman, St. Croix Emergency Management Director Jack Colvard, and Pepin Emergency Management Director John Egli.

All served the people of western Wisconsin extremely well, and I extend my gratitude to them.

Much appreciation and thanks go out to the members of the community and of the region who pulled together during the time of need. It truly was inspiring seeing how people in a particular region can really come together for a common cause.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. HONDA) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. HONDA addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

PEACE OFFICER DEATHS IN HARRIS COUNTY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to talk about recent events in my hometown of Houston. On Tuesday, May 22, while we were in session, the law enforcement community suffered several tragedies.

First, during routine investigation of a dispute over damage to a car between a brother and sister, Harris County Sheriff's Deputy Joseph Dennis was killed. Deputy Dennis, while responding to the complaint, was informed that the brother had just driven through the area. He proceeded to pursue the young man, and, in the process of apprehending him, was shot while attempting to handcuff the assailant.

The suspect fled the scene, but was tracked down later in the evening and arrested with the murder weapon, the deputy's weapon, and the handcuffs still in place on his left wrist.

Later that evening, Houston Police Officers Albert Vasquez and Enrique Duharte-Tur, two of several officers working off-duty jobs as security guards at an apartment complex, were shot while apprehending five suspects in drug-related charges.

Officer Vasquez was killed instantly while Officer Duharte-Tur remains hospitalized in critical condition. The suspect in this killing was also wounded and apprehended at the scene.

Additionally, last Sunday, May 19, HPD Officer Carlton Jones was killed when his vehicle flipped over while on a routine patrol in my congressional district.

These deaths are in addition to the loss of Harris County Deputies Oscar Hill, J. C. Risley, and Barret Hill, all of whom were killed in separate incidents in the line of duty over the last 11 months in Harris County.

Harris County, where Houston is located, is leading the Nation in the grim category of peace officers killed according to the National Law Enforcement Officers' Fund.

This recent spate of fatalities comes a week after Congress highlighted the dangers that the men and women of law enforcement face every day with National Police Officers' Week and National Peace Officers' Memorial Day. It serves as a reminder of the bravery and dedication of those who put their lives on the line to protect our families, our homes, and our communities.

Peace officers and their families know better than anyone the perils and risks involved in their job. Yet every day, they put on a badge and make our Nation a safer place.

While we should never forget these officers, we also need to remember their spouses, their children and friends who miss them dearly. Our hearts go out to those survivors who are trying to cope with saying goodbye to a loved one. We are indebted to the survivors for the courage of these officers, and we share their grief and offer kind words knowing that it is a poor substitute for their loss.